UNTOLD TALES OF

SPIDER-MAN®

1ST ISSUE

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SEPT • 1

MARVEL SPIDER-MAN GROUP

CLIFFE - VEY

*Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...*

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN

TO SERVE AND PROTECT?

NOBODY MEDDLES IN MY BUSINESS, SPIDER-MAN! YOU STICK YOUR *NOSE* IN --

-- YOU GET IT BURNED OFF!

HEY, *HEY!* IS THIS "*CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR BASIC SAFETY*" NIGHT, OR *WHAT?*

THIS ISN'T JUST *ME* OVER HERE, SCORCH -- YOU'RE GONNA FLASH-FRY YOUR OWN *HENCH-GUY!*

A RE-BORN ERA OF WEB-SLINGING EXCITEMENT FROM

KURT BUSIEK WRITER

PAT OLLIFFE PENCILER

AL VEY INKER

RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT LETTERING

STEVE MATTSSON COLORS

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WORRY ABOUT YOUR *OWN* SKIN, INSECT! MY STRIKE SQUAD ARE SAFE IN THEIR *FLAME-PROOF SUITS!* WHEREAS *YOU* --

-- eh? *MISSED?*

SORRY, BIG GUY, BUT IT AIN'T THAT *EASY!* I'M *FASTER* THAN FAST --

-- *SPRYER* THAN SPRY --

FROOSH

FROOSH

-- AND I'VE GOT A *HANDY-DANDY SPIDER-SENSE* THAT WARNS ME OF YOUR BLASTS *BEFORE* THEY --

-- uh --

-- DID I MENTION I'M SORTA *NEW* AT THIS?

HE'S CALLED THE SCORCHER. HE'S A THIEF.

HE'S BEEN SWIPING EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRONICS DESIGNS FROM R&D COMPANIES, WHICH MAKES HIM NEWS. THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO GET SOME PHOTOS OF HIM.

BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE SPOTTED ME --

-- BEFORE I MISINTERPRETED WHICH DANGER MY SPIDER-SENSE WAS REACTING TO --

IT'S SPIDER-MAN!

WH- WHAT'S HE *UP* TO? DID HE SET *FIRE* TO THAT BUILDING?

-- AND ME WITH MY PARACHUTE IN MY OTHER PANTS!

SPIDER-MAN DOESN'T HAVE *FLAME-POWERS!* HE'S NOT THE HUMAN TORCH!

THEY'RE *ALL ALIKE!* THAT'S WHAT *J. JONAH JAMESON* SAYS!

AND *SPIDER-MAN...*

" -- HE'S THE WORST OF THE LOT!"

READ THE SPIDER-MAN IN THE DAILY BUGLE MENACE NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPA

THWIP

WEB-SHOOTERS -- I LOVE YOU!

IT'S A THRILL TO BE ABLE TO SWING ALONG ABOVE THE CITY STREETS, BUT I'M STILL NOT 100 PERCENT WITH THESE THINGS --

-- AND IT GIVES ME BUTTERFLIES TO THINK ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF I MISSED ONE OF THOSE FLAPPIN' FLAGPOLES!

BUT NOW --

HEY, SCORCHER! LET'S HAVE A GET-TOGETHER! MY FISTS -- YOUR FACE! WHADDYA SAY?

GO AWAY, SPIDER-MAN...

" -- YOU'RE STARTING TO ANNOY ME!"

FROOSH

AWP!

WASN'T PREPARED -- OFF-BALANCE --

-- NO TIME TO SNAG ANOTHER FLAGPOLE -- JUST GOTTA TWIST SO I CAN FIRE A WEB DOWN-WARD -- AND --

THWIPIPIP!

H-HE'S AFTER US!

BOOF

YEAH? LET'S SEE HIM TRY SOME-THING!

SORRY ABOUT THAT, FOLKS, I --

--Huh?

COME ON, NOW -- LET'S STAY ORDERLY --

GRAB HIM! UNMASK HIM!

LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT WE THINK OF LAWLESS VIGILANTES!

BASH HIS CREEPY HEAD IN!

SHEESH! IN WORDS OF ONE SYLLABLE--

-- GOOD --

-- BYE!

I HIGHTAIL IT UP THE WALL AS FAST AS I CAN -- I'D RATHER FACE A FLAME-THROWING NUTSO THAN A CROWD OF ANGRY NEW YORKERS ANY DAY!

BUT SURE ENOUGH -- THE SCORCHER AND HIS STRIKE SQUAD ARE ALREADY GONE.

I SMOTHER THE FLAMES WITH MY WEBBING --

-- AND RECOVER MY CAMERA. I HAD SET IT ON AUTOMATIC, SO I HOPE I GOT SOME USABLE SHOTS OF THE SCORCHER.

THAT'D BE THE PERFECT CAPPER TO A WONDERFUL EVENING, WOULDN'T IT --

-- TO HAVE GONE THROUGH ALL THIS AND HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT?

-Sigh- WHY ME? WHO DECIDED, "PARKER! YEAH, HIM! FROM NOW ON, HIS LIFE IS AN UN-ENDING STREAM OF INDIGNITY AND HUMILIATION?"

I SWEAR -- IN ALL MY WILDEST NIGHTMARES, I NEVER FOR A MOMENT IMAGINED LIFE WOULD WORK OUT LIKE THIS.

I NEVER IMAGINED MY AUNT WOULD HAVE TO **SCRIMP** AND **PINCH** JUST TO KEEP A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS --

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN **DO**, AUNT MAY...

LATE

NO, PETER -- THAT ***PART-TIME JOB*** OF YOURS AT THE DAILY BUGLE TAKES TOO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM YOUR STUDIES AS IT IS.

BUT DON'T **WORRY.** WE'LL MANAGE -- SOMEHOW...

-- NEVER IMAGINED THAT I'D BE A **TOTAL OUTCAST** AT SCHOOL --

CHEM. **EXAM** TUESDAY

DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT ***PARKER?***

HE DIDN'T HAVE A ***DATE*** FOR SATURDAY NIGHT 'CAUSE HIS FAVORITE ***TEST TUBE*** ELOPED WITH A ***BUNSEN BURNER!***

OH, JASON -- YOU'RE SO ***MEAN!***

-- NEVER IMAGINED I'D BE HELPING **MAKE SURE** EVERY-ONE IN THE CITY **DISTRUSTS** AND **DESPISES** ME --

SENSATIONAL! THE SCORCHER AND SPIDER-MAN -- ***TOGETHER!***

TAKE A NOTE, MISS BRANT! WE'LL RE-PLATE ***PAGE ONE***, WITH A BANNER HEAD-LINE -- "*THE SCORCHER AND SPIDER-MAN: PARTNERS IN CRIME?*"

WHAT, YOU STILL ***HERE***, PARKER?

I GUESS I JUST NEVER IMAGINED LIFE WOULD BE THIS **HARD.**

I HAVE THESE **AMAZING SUPER-POWERS** -- STRENGTH, SPEED, AGILITY -- BUT WHAT DOES IT **GET** ME? I'M ALWAYS **HIDING**, ALWAYS KEEPING **SECRETS** -- LYING TO MY AUNT EVERY TIME I PRETEND I'M A **NORMAL KID!**

I'M **TRAPPED** -- TRAPPED IN A WEB OF **DECEIT, HATRED AND FEAR** -- AND I'M STARTING TO THINK --

-- THAT I ALWAYS **WILL BE!**

IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS --

I COOKED YOUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST, PETEY -- WHEAT-CAKES!

DON'T FATTEN HIM UP TOO MUCH, DEAR! I CAN HARDLY OUT-WRESTLE HIM NOW!

-- I USED TO BE A NORMAL, EVERY-DAY KID -- UNTIL THAT SCIENCE EXHIBIT --

-- UNTIL I GOT BITTEN BY THAT RADIOACTIVE SPIDER -- AND SOME-HOW GAINED ITS BIZARRE ABILITIES!

I WANTED TO CASH IN ON MY POWERS, SO I DESIGNED A COSTUME -- BECAME A TV CELEBRITY --

-- BUT I WAS TOO SELFISH, TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT MY-SELF TO HELP A COP STOP A BURGLAR --

STOP! THIEF! STOP HIM!

-- AND MY UNCLE BEN PAID FOR THAT MISTAKE -- WITH HIS LIFE!.

I CAUGHT HIS MURDERER -- BUT IF I'D ONLY ACTED EARLIER, UNCLE BEN WOULD STILL BE ALIVE!

SINCE THEN, I'VE TRIED TO LIVE UP TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT GO WITH POWERS LIKE MINE, AND IT'S LED TO SOME PRETTY WILD ADVENTURES --

-- BUT IT'S SO **HARD** TO BE AN OUTCAST, AS BOTH **PETER PARKER** AND **SPIDER-MAN.**

AND JONAH JAMESON DOESN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER, WITH HIS ONE-MAN CRUSADE AGAINST SPIDEY, SMEARING ME EVERY CHANCE HE **GETS** --

PETER? **PETER!** I BROUGHT YOUR CHECK...

Huh?

HONESTLY, YOU'VE BEEN STARING OUT THAT WINDOW FOR ***TEN MINUTES!*** ARE YOU ***ALL RIGHT?***

Oh, uh, SURE, BETTY -- I WAS JUST, UH, WOOL-GATHERING. UM, LISTEN, BETTY -- THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO **ASK** YOU --

YES, PETER?

WOULD YOU -- I MEAN, DO YOU ***THINK*** WE COULD --

EUREKA!

I WANT ***ALL*** THE PHOTOS PARKER'S TAKEN TO DATE! I'LL PRINT A ***GALLERY*** -- SHOWING THAT BLASTED WALL-CRAWLER CONSORTING WITH ***KNOWN CRIMINALS!***

HE ***MUST*** BE IN CAHOOTS WITH THEM -- AFTER ALL, IF SPIDER-MAN ***ISN'T*** A CROOK, WHY WOULD THE POLICE HAVE ***WARRANTS*** OUT ON HIM?

THAT'S CRACKERS! THE ONLY REASON THERE ARE WARRANTS ON ME IS BECAUSE JAMESON **BULLIED** THE COPS AND THE F.B.I. INTO IT!

MOST OF THE POLICE **DON'T** THINK I'M A MENACE -- THEY THINK I'M A **HELP** TO THEM! THEY --

HEY! THAT'S IT!

SORRY, BETTY -- GOTTA ***RUN!*** I'LL CATCH YOU ***LATER!***

WELL, MISS BRANT? DON'T JUST STAND THERE LIKE AN ***EMPTY-HEADED TEENAGER!***

THIS IS AN OFFICE, NOT A MALT SHOPPE!

I WAS GOING TO ASK BETTY OUT ON A **DATE**, BUT THAT'LL HAVE TO **WAIT**! I KNOW WHAT TO **DO** NOW --

-- I KNOW HOW I CAN TURN EVERYTHING **AROUND** FOR ME!

THE PROBLEM'S NOT THAT PEOPLE ARE SCARED OF **ME** -- THEY'RE SCARED OF WHAT THEY **THINK** I AM! JONAH'S GOT EVERYONE JUMPING AT **SHADOWS**!

SO I NEED TO **SHOW** THEM I'M NOT A THREAT, BY DOING SOMETHING VERY HEROIC, VERY PUBLIC --

-- AND VERY **OFFICIAL**!

POLICE

I FIND AN OPEN **WINDOW**, AND --

HEY, **POLICE GUY** -- ARE YOU IN **CHARGE** AROUND HERE?

EH--?!

I'M GEORGE STACY -- **CAPTAIN** OF THIS PRECINCT. WHAT -- ER -- CAN I **DO** FOR YOU?

Captain STACY

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR **ME** -- BUT WHAT **I** CAN DO FOR **YOU**!

I WANNA BE A **COP**! TAKE ME -- I'M **YOURS**!

WH-**WHAT**?!

WELL, YOU CAN'T JUST *BECOME* A POLICEMAN...

I *KNOW*, I *KNOW* -- YOU'D HAVE TO MAKE ME A *SPECIAL DEPUTY* OR SOMETHING. BUT C'MON, YOU *KNOW* I'M A GOOD GUY --

-- I CAUGHT THE *SANDMAN*, THE *VULTURE* --EVEN THE GUY WHO MURDERED *BEN PARKER!* I'D MAKE A *GREAT* COP!

WE CAN'T -- IT JUST WON'T *WORK* THAT WAY, SON. ALTHOUGH IF YOU WERE TO REVEAL YOUR *IDENTITY*, GO THROUGH THE *POLICE ACADEMY*...

I CAN'T *DO* THAT.

WHY *NOT?*

WHAT CAN I *SAY?* THAT IT'S NO GOOD UNLESS IT HAPPENS *ALL AT ONCE?* THAT JAMESON WOULD *PILLORY* ME IN THE BUGLE BEFORE I EVER GOT ON THE *STREETS* AS A COP?

THAT THE SHOCK OF UNMASKING MIGHT *KILL* MY AUNT MAY?

JUST *FORGET* ABOUT IT.

SORRY TO *BOTHER* YOU.

SPIDER-MAN, *WAIT* --!

SERGEANT? WOULD YOU BRING ME THE FILE ON *SPIDER-MAN?* Oh, AND I'LL NEED THE ONE ON THE *BENJAMIN PARKER* MURDER, TOO.

IT HAPPENED IN *QUEENS* SOMEWHERE, I THINK...

IT'S NOT FAIR! I'D MAKE A **GREAT** COP -- I **WOULD!**

I SWING AROUND THE CITY FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS -- LOOKING FOR A **MUGGING, A BANK ROBBERY** -- SOMETHING I CAN VENT MY **FRUSTRATION** ON.

IT WOULD HAVE **WORKED!** IT WOULD HAVE MADE PEOPLE **THINK AGAIN** ABOUT ME -- FIXED MY **REPUTATION! PLUS,** I'D GET A PAYCHECK!

AND CAPTAIN STACY COULD MAKE AN **EXCEPTION** TO THE RULES IF HE REALLY **WANTED** TO -- OR HE COULD **GET** ONE MADE, ANYWAY!

BUT OF COURSE, I FIND **NOTHING.** THE CITY'S DECIDED TO BE PEACEFUL AND QUIET, JUST TO **MESS** WITH ME!

BUT ALL BECAUSE OF SOME **STUPID, HIDEBOUND** --!

NO, CAPTAIN STACY'S **OKAY.** HE'S JUST DOING HIS JOB. BUT **STILL** --

-- IT WOULD HAVE **WORKED.**

THIS IS **WONDERFUL,** PETER! NOW WE'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE PAYING THIS MONTH'S **MORTGAGE BILL!**

AND THERE'S ENOUGH LEFT OVER FOR THAT **HEART MEDICINE** YOU NEED!

YOU'RE SO **THOUGHTFUL,** PETER. AND SUCH A **HELP!**

I ONLY WISH I COULD DO **MORE.**

AND I **COULD** HAVE, IF ONLY --

-- DANGEROUS SUPER-VILLAIN KNOWN ONLY AS THE **SCORCHER** FLED POLICE -- AND HAS TAKEN REFUGE IN AN **EAST SIDE CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE!**

HUH?

POLICE HAVE THE AREA **CORDONED** OFF, AND ARE REQUESTING THAT MOTORISTS **AVOID** THE AREA OF --

I, Ah, JUST **REMEMBERED,** AUNT MAY -- I LEFT A BOOK AT THE **BUGLE OFFICE,** AND I NEED IT FOR MY **HOMEWORK!**

I'LL GRAB A **BURGER** OR SOMETHING FOR DINNER! DON'T WAIT UP!

GOODNESS!

I'M GOING TO PROVE TO THE POLICE THAT I CAN BE USEFUL TO THEM --

-- GET CAPTAIN STACY TO MAKE THAT EXCEPTION --

-- BY BRINGING IN THE SCORCHER FOR THEM!

THEY'VE GOT THE PLANT SURROUNDED PRETTY WELL --

-- EXCEPT FOR ONE AREA AT THE NORTH END! THE SCORCHER AND HIS MEN COULD SLIP OUT THIS WAY, AND THE COPS WOULD NEVER SPOT THEM!

IT'S NOT OBVIOUS FROM THE GROUND, BUT IT JUMPS RIGHT OUT AT YOU FROM THE AIR.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

JUST ONE MORE LITTLE REASON --

-- THEY NEED SOMEONE LIKE ME!

I-I DON'T *LIKE* THIS, SCORCHER! THERE'S COPS *ALL OVER* THE PLACE -- HOW'RE WE GONNA *GET OUT?*

MARC, MARC, *MARC!* YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN TO *RELAX!*

WE'VE COMPLETED ALL OUR *ROBBERIES,* AND WE'RE READY TO HAND OVER THE SCHEMATICS AND *CASH* IN! DON'T WORRY --

-- *EVERY-THING'S* GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN!

Oh, *REALLY?*

AM *I* PART OF YOUR PLAN? HOW ABOUT *SURRENDER* -- IS *THAT* PART OF YOUR SCHEME?

WHAKK

GHUH!

SPIDER-MAN! HE GOT *CARL!*

FROOSH FROOSH FROOSH

DIDN'T *THINK* SO!

WELL, THERE'S BEEN A *CHANGE* OF PLANS, BIG GUY --

-- YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

YOU'RE JOKING, SPIDER-MAN!

FROOSH FROOSH

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DODGE MY FLAME-BLASTS FOR A *MINUTE* OR TWO -- BUT I ONLY NEED TO HIT YOU *ONCE!*

-- MAYBE THIS WASN'T AS GOOD AN IDEA AS I *THOUGHT*...

HE HAS A **POINT** -- THIS ISN'T LIKE THE **ROOFTOP** LAST NIGHT! IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE LIKE THIS, IT'S HARDER TO **DODGE** -- AND THE **HEAT** --

-- IT'S TURNING INTO AN **OVEN** HERE!

GRAB HIM! HOLD HIM DOWN -- SO THE BOSS CAN ***FINISH HIM OFF!***

HEY, WHAT IS THIS? I HAVE TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY OF THE ***FLAMES,*** BUT YOUR FIREPROOF SUITS LET YOU COME AT ME FROM ***ANY DIRECTION?***

AND YOU CALL THAT ***FAIR?***

I'LL SHUT YOUR ***YAPPING MOUTH,*** SMART GUY!

YOU ***WILL?*** HOW -- LIKE ***THIS?***

WRAK

I'VE ***GOT HIM!*** I'VE -- Huh?

WELL, AT LEAST THERE'S **ONE THING** I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT --

-- ***THE EVIDENCE!***

IN THAT **FLAME-PROOF BRIEF-CASE,** IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE UNTIL THE BATTLE'S **OVER!**

CORDON TO ***DISPATCH*** -- GET ***CAPTAIN STACY*** ON THE HORN, WILLYA?

WE'VE GOT A LITTLE ***PROBLEM*** HERE...

I CAN'T TELL WHERE ANYTHING IS. THE FLAMES, THROWING GIANT, SHIFTING SHADOWS -- THE SMOKE OVER EVERYTHING --

-- IT'S LIKE BEING IN SOME HELLISH FUNHOUSE, AND IT GETS TO ME -- I FIND MYSELF PANICKING, LASHING OUT AT NOTHING --

-- UNTIL I FORCE MYSELF TO RELAX -- TO TRUST MY SPIDER-SENSE -- TO STOP DODGING AND START CONNECTING --

-- AND SOON --

WELL, WHADDYA KNOW?

EVERY-ONE'S -Koff- DOWN FOR THE COUNT!

IT'S JUST YOU AND ME! COME ON, THEN!

I TRY TO TAKE A BREATH -- GET SOME AIR -- BUT IT'S SO HOT -- SEARING --

KOFF KOFF

I'VE GOT TO END THIS --

-- BEFORE I CAN'T BREATHE AT ALL!

COME ON!

HOLD YOUR -koff- HORSES, SCORCH!

OR ARE YOU IN A -koff- HURRY TO GET YOUR HEAD HANDED TO YOU?

HE'S ALMOST TOO HOT TO APPROACH -- AND WAY TOO HOT TO TOUCH--

KWHAM

-- SO I MAKE DO!

IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN MANAGE, SPIDER-MAN? GO AHEAD -- TRY AGAIN.

KRAMM

BRAKK

-KOFF-

KLUOD

-KOFF- -KOFF-

-KOFF- -KOFF-

IT'S NO GOOD --

-- THE HEAT'S TOO INTENSE -- PUSHING ME BACK -- INCINERATING MY WEBBING -- SMOKE INHALATION GETTING TO ME --

YOU'RE AN *IDIOT*, SPIDER-MAN!

EVERY-THING YOU'VE DONE HAS PLAYED *RIGHT* INTO MY *HANDS*. I CAN KILL YOU, AND THEN JUST *WALTZ* OUT OF HERE --

-- WHILE THE COPS HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE *BURNING BUILDING!*

HE'S RIGHT --

*THE POLICE WON'T BE ABLE TO **CHASE** HIM -- THEY'LL HAVE TO BE MAKING SURE RESIDENTS **EVACUATE** THE AREA!*

*OTHERWISE, ONCE THE FLAMES REACH THE **CHEMICAL STORAGE TANKS** ON THE LOWER FLOORS --*

-- THOUSANDS COULD DIE!

KOFF! KOFF! KOFF!

*THE FIRE'S ALREADY BURNED THROUGH THE **ROOF** --*

*-- AND IT'S **SPREADING** FAST --*

SO.

WHAT'LL IT BE? *FLAME-BROILED* -- OR *SLOW-ROASTED?*

FROOOSH

TARTARE, THANKS!

YOU'VE ALREADY -Koff- LIGHTLY SEARED THE *OUTSIDE* -- AND I PREFER MY INSIDES -Koff- *RAW!*

-- BUT IF THOSE *TANKS* BLOW -- IF INNOCENT PEOPLE **DIE** --

-- IT'LL BE PARTLY **MY FAULT**, FOR STARTING THIS FIGHT --

I CAN BARELY MOVE --

LIE DOWN AND *DIE*, SPIDER-MAN!

OOOH

THWIP

THWIP

NO --

-- I **CAN'T** LET THAT *HAPPEN!*

THAPP

I PULL WITH ALL MY **MIGHT** -- BUT MY STRENGTH'S **ALMOST GONE** --

-- I'M PRAYING THE FLAMES WEAKENED THE TOWER'S **SUPPORTS** --

-- AND THEY HAVE --

KRAK AK KK

SHLOOSH

SSSSSSS

TONS OF WATER SLAM DOWN, HITTING US LIKE A **SLEDGEHAMMER.** I DUCK THE **WORST** OF IT, BUT IT STILL BATTERS ME NEARLY **SENSELESS.**

THE SCORCHER GETS IT **WORSE,** THOUGH. THE SUDDEN COLD **SHATTERS** HIS HELMET, CRACKS HIS **ARMOR** --

-- AND ONCE IT'S ALL OVER --

HEY, ANYBODY HERE LOOKING FOR A *SLIGHTLY DRENCHED SUPER-VILLAIN?* ALL PART OF THE *SPIDEY SERVICE!*

I ALSO PUT OUT *FIRES!*

THERE YOU ARE --

-- YOU *BONEHEAD!* YOU *INCOMPETENT!* DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE *DONE?*

Er, CAPTURED A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL AND HIS GANG AFTER YOU COULDN'T *HANDLE* THEM?

EASY, PIETRANTONIO. I'LL HANDLE THIS.

I'M AFRAID YOU'VE DISRUPTED A VERY *CAREFULLY PLANNED OPERATION,* SPIDER-MAN.

WHAT? I *CAUGHT* THE GUY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH *THAT?!*

THE SCORCHER WAS SUPPOSED TO *ESCAPE.* HE WAS WORKING FOR SOMEONE, BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW *WHO* --

-- SO WE DELIBERATELY LEFT A *HOLE* IN OUR CORDON, HOPING HE'D "*ESCAPE*" AND LEAD US TO THE *REAL* MASTERMIND.

NOW --

OSBORN Chemical INC.

-- WE HAVE NO IDEA *WHO* WANTED THOSE ELECTRONICS PLANS --

-- OR FOR *WHAT...*

Uh... SORRY.

WHAT, HE GETS TO MUCK EVERYTHING UP AND THEN JUST *SWING AWAY?*

WE OUGHT TO RUN HIS BUTT IN FOR *OBSTRUCTING!*

YOU KNOW, PIETRANTONIO --

-- I THINK THAT, FOR ALL HIS REPUTATION, HE'S MERELY TRYING TO DO HIS *CIVIC DUTY.* THERE'S MORE TO THAT YOUNG MAN THAN I *THOUGHT* --

-- AND HE MAY MERIT *FURTHER INVESTIGATION...*

-- *CHEMICAL EXPLOSION WAS* ***NARROWLY AVERTED.*** *SOME PATROLMEN INDICATED* ***SPIDER-MAN*** *WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEAR-DISASTER.*

DAILY BUGLE PUBLISHER J. JONAH JAMESON WAS QUOTED AS SAYING --

3 ACTION NEWS

TSK- *TSK! SUCH VIOLENT* NEWS --

CLIK

-- I'M SURE IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU TO BE WATCHING SUCH THINGS IN YOUR CONDITION!

I'LL BE *FIDE,* AUNT BAY. ALL I NEED IS A LIDDLE *REST...*

NONSENSE! OUT HALF THE NIGHT WITHOUT EVEN A *JACKET* -- I'D BE SURPRISED IF IT'S NOT *PNEUMONIA!*

I'VE CALLED *DR. BROMFIELD,* AND HE'LL BE BY THIS *AFTERNOON.*

NUTS! *I TRY TO MAKE THINGS BETTER AND WHAT* ***HAPPENS?*** *THE COPS ARE* ***MAD*** *AT ME, I CAUGHT A* ***COLD*** *-- AND NOW WE'LL HAVE A DOCTOR BILL --*

-- WHEN WE ***NEEDED*** *THAT MONEY FOR* ***AUNT MAY'S*** *MEDICINE!*

BUT I ***CAN'T*** *GIVE UP. I'VE GOT TO KEEP* ***TRYING*** *-- GOT TO KEEP AT IT, UNTIL SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE --*

-- I FIND A WAY TO MAKE THINGS WORK OUT ***RIGHT*** *FOR ONCE!*

NEXT: WHAT IS THE MENACE CALLED... **BATWING?**

UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR
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Rememer when there was only *one* Spider-Man comic?

Many of you probably *don't* remember. Further, many of you probably weren't even *born* when the only home for Spider-Man's adventures was AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, which was launched in 1963 by the team of *Stan Lee* and *Steve Ditko*.

For its first few years, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN chronicled the earliest adventures of the wondrous web-slinger. Peter Parker was just a kid when he was bitten by that radioactive spider, a shy, outcast high school sophomore just beginning to learn about life, love and responsibility.

During their tenure together, Stan and Steve created wonderful, classic tales, ones that still hold up today and continue to inspire the current creative teams on the Spider-books. These tales covered many of the pivotal events of Spider-Man's early days. Many... but not *all*.

Which brings us to to the book you now hold in your hands.

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN takes us back to the Spider-Man of the Lee-Ditko era. As such, it is completely different from the other Spider-Man titles being produced today. Indeed, it is unlike any Spider-Man title *ever* produced. For one thing, it's the first and only Spider-Man book that does *not* take place in present-day continuity. This means that the star of this series is very different from the Spider-Man that can be found in the four "core" Spidey titles (AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, WEB OF SPIDER-MAN and SPIDER-MAN). He's much younger here, much less experienced, and many of the characters and places we'll be spotlighting in this series have not been seen in many years.

What's more, the timing for this series to be launched could not be better. UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN stars the one, true, original Peter Parker, long before the Jackal came along and created the clone that would change the Spider-Man mythos forever. Now that Ben (Scarlet Spider) Reilly knows that *he* is the original Peter Parker, and is pursuing his destiny in the four core titles, UNTOLD TALES serves as the perfect companion to those books, chronicling Ben's early adventures as Peter and Spider-Man.

We see the stories presented in UNTOLD TALES as the "lost episodes" of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: long-missing, recently-discovered adventures that fill in the gaps of Spider-Man's early history. We'll be expanding upon the Lee-Ditko canon and adding to it. We absolutely *won't* violate or tamper with it.

When this series was given the green light, and our creative team was in place, editor *Tom Brevoort*, Spider-Man Editor-in-Chief *Bob Budiansky* and I sat down and discussed what would be the best point in Spider-Man's history to start our run. Writer *Kurt Busiek* wanted to begin the stories as early in Spidey's career as possible, to latch onto the original AMAZING SPIDER-MAN continuity at a time when Peter was still new at the super hero game, with only a few major battles under his belt. Ultimately, Kurt's idea was deemed the best. For you historians out there, this first issue of UNTOLD TALES begins shortly after AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6, in which Spidey first encountered the Lizard. As the series progresses, we'll move forward through the original AMAZING SPIDER-MAN continuity a little bit at a time, paying attention to the events and situations from those early issues and using them as reference points as we tell our all-new stories. But readers shouldn't feel that they have to have read or even be aware of what happened in those early issues of AMAZING to enjoy UNTOLD TALES; we're striving to be a *very* reader-friendly book!

The *really* cool thing is that we plan to introduce characters (i.e. super-villains, supporting characters) here in UNTOLD TALES and then have them reappear in the core Spidey titles, establishing that many years have gone by since they last interacted with Peter or Spider-Man (which will explain why you never saw or heard of them before)! We've also discussed introducing characters into the core titles first, establishing that they have a past history with Peter or Spidey, and then detailing that history here in UNTOLD TALES. So there *will* be cross-pollination between our book and the Spider-books set in the present.

We're very proud of this first issue, and we will be striving to make each subsequent issue of UNTOLD TALES a memorable, exciting, *fun* book to read. Kurt Busiek is bursting with terrific story ideas, and penciler *Pat Olliffe* is without a doubt producing the best work of his career on this title, in conjunction with inker extraordinaire *Al Vey*. We hope you agree, and that you'll be letting us know what you think. We *will* have a letters page, and we welcome suggestions for what it should be called. Maybe we'll award a nifty prize for the best suggestion!

So start writing those letters, and be back with us next month as we present to you another untold tale of Spider-Man!

Glenn Greenberg
Assistant Editor

COMING UP IN UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN:

#2
THE COMING OF BATWING!

#3
SMASHED BY THE SANDMAN!